

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 6, 9-17, 21, 22 and 25-36 are presented for consideration, with Claims 1, 10, 17, 22, 33, 34, 35 and 36 being independent.

The specification has been amended to address minor informalities as discussed in detail below. In addition, editorial changes have been made to selected claims for reasons that will be discussed below.

The amendments to the claims were not presented earlier as it was believed that the previously presented claims would be found allowable. This Amendment does not add any additional claims. Moreover, the Examiner's familiarity with the subject matter of the present application will allow an appreciation of the significance of the amendments herein without undue expenditure of time and effort. Finally, the Amendment does not raise new issues requiring further consideration or search; rather, the claims have been amended to address the issues raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is believed that entry of the Amendment is appropriate.

Applicant is submitting concurrently herewith a Request to Make Drawing Changes with proposed changes, shown in red ink, to Figure 1. These changes consist of adding arrows denoting a rotation direction of the photosensitive drum 3a and the transfer belt 130, reinserting reference numeral 7 to depict a pair of registration rollers, and redirecting the lead line of reference numeral 12 to depict a conveying guide. In addition, numeral 1s has been replaced with 13. These drawing changes address the objections to pages 10, 11 and 13 (line 19) of the specification as set forth on page 2 of the Office Action.

A Replacement Sheet of Figure 1 is being prepared to incorporate these changes and will be submitted as soon as possible.

The following comments are submitted in response to the remaining specification objections as set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the Office action.

With respect to the objection to page 13, line 14, the disclosed "cleaning apparatus" corresponds to cleaning means 4a, 4b, 4c and 4d as disclosed, for example, on page 11, line 9 of the specification.

The specification has been amended at page 15, line 13 to disclose cleaning apparatus 4a, 4b, 4c and 4d.

With respect to page 20, lines 2-10, this portion of the specification has been amended to identify the toner breaking member as element B, which is shown in Figures 2, 4 and 5.

The specification has also been amended on page 20, line 22 to set forth --fan portion--.

On page 23, line 19, --scraping and dropping member-- has been added to make it clearer that this is the same element as the curtain member.

On page 24, line 14, reference numeral "113" has been changed to --113a, 113b, 113c and 113d--.

Finally, on page 27, line 8 and page 28, line 17, "Figure 4" has been changed to --Figure 6--.

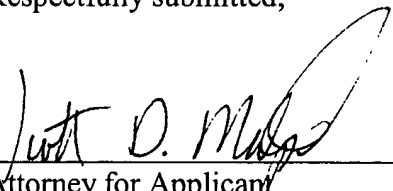
Claims 17, 29, 31 and 33-36 were objected to because of minor informalities as identified on pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action. In response to this objection, Claims 17, 29, 31 and 33-36 have been amended, taking into consideration the remarks in the Office Action. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Claims 13, 14, 16, 22, 29, 30 and 32-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Particular attention was paid to the grounds for this rejection as set forth on pages 4 and 5 of the Office Action in amending the claims as shown above. With respect to Claims 16 and 32, parent Claims 13 and 29, respectively, have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for "said base member." Accordingly, it is submitted that all the claims are in compliance with the particularity and distinctness requirements of the statute. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation that Claims 1, 5, 6, 9-12, 15, 17, 21, 25-28 and 31 are allowed. The remaining claims, i.e., Claims 13, 14, 16, 22, 29, 30 and 32-36, are also submitted to be allowable. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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